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impression that William the Conqueror was only "a mighty robber," and that the Norman conquest was a very dubious blessing in disguise. It is hard to understand why the author, after disposing of the vexed question of the motives of Henry VIII. in desiring a divorce from Catharine with the remark that it is "alike insoluble and unimportant," should devote a long paragraph to the unsavory history of Anne Boleyn.

Notwithstanding these occasional lapses Mr. Goldwin Smith has given new evidence in these two volumes of his extraordinary gift of concise and pithy statement, as well as of his keen sense of proportion and historical perspective.

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*Principles of Scientific Socialism.* By Rev. CHARLES H. VAIL. Commonwealth Library. Pp. 237. Price, \$1.00; paper, 35 cents. New York: Commonwealth Company, 1899.

*A History of Socialism.* By THOMAS KIRKUP. Pp. vi, 364. Price, \$2.00. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1900.

Mr. Vail's purpose is to demonstrate that modern socialism "is scientific and rests upon a historical, economic and scientific basis. To explain the principles of modern socialism and aid in better understanding of the subject." . . . This simply means that after an inadequate sketch of the "industrial revolution," we have eight chapters of Karl Marx diluted and three scattering chapters on the "advantages of socialism," "evidences of the moral strength of socialism," and "popular economic errors." There is no evidence that any part of the Marxian mantle has fallen upon the author, who is ignorant of history and whose attitude of mind is anything but scientific, while his acquaintance with economic thought leaves him prejudiced against "our present cannibalistic system of industry." (p. 101.)

That socialistic theories must undergo the rough-hewing of continual controversy, discussion and criticism is the guiding thought of the second book which forms the subject of this notice, and, we may add, it is a great pleasure to welcome a new edition of Mr. Kirkup's work. Two chapters have been added, the one on "The German Social Democracy," and other matter bringing the account nearer to our own times. In this work we realize something of the meaning and significance of the socialistic movement, its place in history and the issues to which it is tending. Here we have emphasized what Mr. Vail conspicuously neglects, that socialism is not wedded to any

stereotyped set of formulas, whether of Marx or any other, and that it has shown a tendency to degenerate into a stiff orthodoxy, which seeks to apply narrow and half-digested theories, without adapting or even reasonably understanding them, to circumstances for which they are not suited.

Whatever claims socialism makes to represent the aspirations after a better life of the toiling and suffering millions of the human race are well sustained in this new edition of Mr. Kirkup's scholarly and practical work.

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*The Story of France, from the Earliest Times to the Consulate of Napoleon Bonaparte.* By THOMAS E. WATSON. Two vols., pp. xv, 712; x, 1,076. Price, \$5.00. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

Mr. Watson, in his preface, lets us into the secret of his preference for French history. France is a type of what humanity has done and suffered. She has sounded all depths, has boxed the compass of political and social experiment. Nowhere else have changes been "more frequent, more radical, more sudden, bloody and dramatic." Of good she has possessed the best, of ill the vilest. Such an embarrassment of riches might discourage a fainter heart, but Mr. Watson advances to the task without misgivings.

It may be questioned, however, whether the author's preparation for the task has been of the kind which modern historical writing exacts. The work gives little evidence of ripe scholarship or of that careful scrutiny of conflicting accounts which is necessary for the elaboration of a judgment worth recording. There are long stretches of narrative that might have been adapted from the book nearest at hand, with just a dash of lurid eloquence to change its flavor. Throughout the whole the author's individuality is expressed rather in eccentricities of style than in the substantial results of wide reading and deep reflection.

Such is the impression received from reading the first volume at the time of its appearance. The second volume was looked forward to with interest. From what was known of the author's personality, it was felt by many that here would be found the justification for the work; that the first volume, in spite of its seven hundred pages, was little more than a running start; that in the treatment of the Revolution, with its wealth of economic and social suggestion, the author might find his opportunity.

But expectation of this sort was wasted. The second volume, to be sure, is better done. It shows more thought, more reading; but its